

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6749

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4348

MONROVIA PLEASE PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SG, IR

SUBJ: SENEGAL PRESIDENT SENGHOR VISITS IRAN

REFS: (A) TEHRAN A-66, (B) DAKAR 1347

1. PRESIDENT SENGHOR DEPARTED IRAN APRIL 29, ONE DAY EARLIER THAN PLANNED. SENGHOR TOLD AMBASSADOR HE HAD SHORTENED IRAN VISIT BY ONE DAY SO HE COULD BE IN SENEGAL TO GREET SECRETARY KISSINGER ON HIS ARRIVAL THERE.

2. VISIT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL ATMOSPHERIC DISPLAY OF IRAN-SENEGAL FRIENDSHIP. ONLY REAL SUBSTANTIVE ACHIEVEMENT WAS SIGNING OF \$40 MILLION LOAN PACKAGE, MOST OF WHICH WILL BE USED FOR THE PROPOSED PHOSPHATE MINING PROJECT (SEE REFERENCES), AND CAYAR PETROLEUM PROJECT. LOAN REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY HALF PROJECTED \$80 MILLION CASH IRAN IS PUTTING UP IN CONTEXT OF \$400 MILLION JOINT PROJECT PROGRAM. FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS JAFAR NADIM SAID VISIT UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE IRAN ATTACHES TO SENEGAL IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

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3. AT GOLESTAN PALACE PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 28, SENGHOR SHOWED CONCERN OVER TREND OF EVENTS IN AFRICA, BUT SAID HE HAD NOT DESPAIRED OF NEW SOLUTIONS. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE WHITE RULE IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA WOULD COLLAPSE WITHIN TWO YEARS BECAUSE: (A) ARMED INSURGENCY IS ESCALATING BOTH PLACES, (B) EVEN SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS NOW TAKEN A STRONG STAND ON BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, AND (C) U.N. PRESSURE CONTINUES. SENGHOR DECRIED AFRICAN HABIT OF REFERRING OWN PROBLEMS TO "BIG BROTHERS" BEYOND AFRICAN CONTINENT. PRESIDENT SAID AFRICANS SHOULD THINK FOR THEMSELVES, AND PRECISELY BECAUSE ANGOLANS HAVE NOT, SENEGAL REMAINS ALMOST ONLY AFRICAN COUNTRY NOT RECOGNIZING NEW MPLA REGIME.

4. PRESIDENT SENGHOR RECEIVED HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM TEHRAN UNIVERSITY, AND HIS POEMS WERE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC LECTURE ON SECOND DAY OF VISIT. PRESIDENTIAL PARTY SAW TEHRAN SIGHTS AND VISITED OIL INSTALLATIONS IN SOUTHERN IRAN, INCLUDING KHARG ISLAND DEPOT. SHAH AND SENGHOR SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN PRIVATE TALKS APRIL 26. AT WELCOMING BANQUET APRIL 25, SHAH ASSURED SENGHOR OF IRAN'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH SENEGAL IN VARIOUS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND INDUSTRIAL FIELDS "BECAUSE OF OUR SIMILARITY OF VIEWS ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MATTERS." SHAH PAID TRIBUTE TO HIS GUEST'S CULTURAL AND LITERARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR SENGHOR'S POLICIES IN AFRICA. IN RETURN, SENGHOR LAUDED IRAN'S SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION AS NOT CONFINED TO IRANIAN PEOPLE, BUT AIMED AT BETTERMENT OF ENTIRE WORLD.

5. COMMENT: IRAN APPEARS TO HAVE SINGLED OUT SENEGAL FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION BECAUSE IT WISHES TO HAVE FAIRLY DEEP RELATIONSHIP WITH AT LEAST ONE DISTANT AFRICAN COUNTRY. SENEGAL FILLS BILL ADMIRABLY BECAUSE: (A) SHAH RESPECTS SENGHOR AS CONSERVATIVE YET FORWARD LOOKING LEADER, (B) IRAN WANTS LINK WITH BLACK AFRICA TO BALANCE ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND PREFERS SENEGAL'S LESS EXTREME VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA TO THOSE OF OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES, (C) SENEGAL'S ECONOMIC NEEDS AND IRAN'S CAPACITY TO HELP MATCH, AND (D) SENEGAL'S

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FRANCOPHONE HERITAGE IS APPEALING, PARTICULARLY TO OLDER GENERATION OF IRANIANS AND PERHAPS TO EMPRESS, WHO STUDIED IN FRANCE, AND WHO VISITED DAKAR RECENTLY. HELMS

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